**The 17th Century Open Notes (1625-1700)**

**Timeline:**

* Charles I becomes king in 1625
* Civil War in England in 1642
* Charles I is beheaded in 1649; Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of the England
* 1650: tea is first drunk in England
* Oliver Cromwell dissolves Parliament, prohibits Anglican services (1655)
* Cromwell dies in 1658 and his son Richard succeeds him
* 1660 ends the Protectorate and Charles II is restored to the throne in 1661
* Isaac Newton experiments on gravity in 1665
* 1666 marks the Great Fire of London
* 1685: Charles II dies and James II succeeds his brother
* 1688: Glorious Revolution—overthrow of James II and accession of William and Mary

**Political and Religious Upheavals:**

* “divine right” is questioned
* Charles I’s insistence on divine right alienated Parliament (who had a large Puritan faction); he often ignored Parliament altogether
* Civil War broke out between the king’s supporters called the "royalists” or “cavaliers” and the Parliamentary forces called the “roundheads”
* Oliver Cromwell (a Puritan member of Parliament) brought victory to the roundheads and ended the monarchy in 1649—they beheaded the king
* Cromwell was essentially a dictator, though (a firm, moralist and Puritan)
* England’s first non-royal ruler—known as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth; ruled for 9 violent years
* After his son Richard’s rule (which failed), the Stuart king, Charles II, was restored to the throne—this period is often called “The Restoration.”
* James II (Charles II’s son) rule was too harsh and he was removed in a nonviolent revolution where he fled into exile and his daughter, Mary, and her Dutch husband, Prince William of Orange, were offered the British throne

**Life:**

* London grows to 600,000 occupants
* 1665: the Great Plague sweeps London, leaving 68,000 dead
* 1666: the Great Fire consumes 13,200 houses, 400 streets, and 90 of London’s 101 churches
* much growth in the textile industry (child labor being a large part if you were poor)
* rich family’s children often could read, write, and translate both Latin and Greek by age 5

**Literature:**

* Poetry dominates the early literature of the century
* *Metaphysical poetry* (led by John Donne) is a complex, highly intellectual verse filled with intricate and far-fetched metaphors
* John Milton writes *Paradise Lost*, a work of over 10,000 lines
* John Bunyan writes *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (long, prose work with imaginary characters)
* Izaak Walton wrote a fantastic manual on fishing called *The Compleat Angler*